

Arizona Writing Standard Performance Level Descriptors Grade 5

Exceeds the Standard – Students who score in this level illustrate a superior academic performance as evidenced by achievement that is substantially beyond the goal for all students. Students who perform at this level demonstrate the ability to identify and apply good written communications by writing an exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting piece, using precise and varied words, engaging the audience and communicating a strong sense of purpose, and making few errors in conventions.

Meets the Standard – Students who score in this level demonstrate a solid academic performance on subject matter as reflected by the writing standard. Students who perform at this level are able to identify elements of good communication and apply basic rules of conventions. They can express a clear main idea, organize with a beginning, middle, and end, sequence logically with effective transitions, utilize a variety of descriptive words, and demonstrate consistent control of writing mechanics.

Approaches the Standard – Students who score in this level show partial understanding of the knowledge and application of the skills that are fundamental for proficient work. Students who perform at this level show the ability to use some of the basic elements of written communication by demonstrating limited awareness of writing purpose, attempting to organize and sequence, constructing simple sentences with words relevant to the topic, and showing a basic understanding of grammar and usage. Some gaps in knowledge and skills are evident and may require additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Falls Far Below the Standard – Students who score in this level may have significant gaps and limited knowledge and skills that are necessary to satisfactorily meet the state’s writing standard. Students will usually require a considerable amount of additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Students at the “Exceeds the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Meets” and “Approaches” levels and are able to:	Students at the “Meets the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Approaches” level and are able to:	Students at the “Approaches the Standard” level generally know and are able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write an exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting piece that holds the reader’s attention. • Develop main ideas with many supporting details. • Organize with a clear beginning that is strong and inviting and builds to a satisfying conclusion. • Use smooth, effective transitions throughout. • Use precise and varied words that convey meaning and evoke clear images. • Engage the audience and communicate a strong sense of purpose. • Control the rhythm and flow of writing. • Vary sentence structure to emphasize meaning. • Use natural dialogue when appropriate. • Produce a document that requires minimal editing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express a clear main idea with related supporting details. • Organize with a beginning, middle, and end. • Sequence logically with effective transitions. • Adopt a tone that is appropriate to audience and purpose. • Use words that are precise and descriptive. • Use a variety of sentence patterns. • Create sentences that flow naturally. • Demonstrate consistent control of writing mechanics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express a main idea with limited supporting details. • Attempt to organize and sequence. • Show a limited awareness of writing purpose. • Use language that is appropriate though words may be imprecise. • Construct simple sentences. • Demonstrate a basic understanding of grammar and usage. • Punctuate using commas and end marks.

These descriptors do not include all the skills and knowledge as contained in the Writing Standard.